

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims as follows.

1. (original) A process for the surface treatment of a threaded joint for steel pipes comprising a pin and a box each having a contact surface including a threaded portion and an unthreaded metal contact portion,

characterized in that the process comprises the steps:

applying a coating fluid containing a resin and a lubricating powder in a solvent to the contact surface of at least one of the pin and the box, and

drying the applied coating by multistage heating which includes at least first stage heating in the temperature range of from 70°C to 150°C and second stage heating in the range of from higher than 150°C to 380°C to form a solid lubricant coating on the contact surface.

2. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the process further includes, prior to the coating application step, a step of heating the contact surface to be coated to a temperature of from 50°C to 200°C.

3. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the solid lubricant coating which is formed has a hardness of 70 – 140 on the Rockwell M scale.

4. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the solid lubricant coating formed has an adhesive strength of at least 500 N/m as determined by the SAICAS (Surface And Interfacial Cutting Analysis System) method.

5. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the lubricating powder is a powder of one or more substances selected from molybdenum disulfide, tungsten disulfide, graphite, boron nitride, and ploytetrafluoroethylene.

6. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the contact surface to which the coating fluid is applied has a surface roughness of 5 – 40  $\mu\text{m}$  Rmax.

7. (currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the contact surface to which the coating fluid is applied has a porous coating layer formed by pretreatment.

8 – 16. canceled

17. (new) A process as set forth in claim 2, wherein the process further includes, prior to the coating application step, a step of heating the contact surface to be coated to a temperature of from 50°C to 200°C.

18. (new) A process as set forth in claim 2, wherein the solid lubricant coating which is formed has a hardness of 70 – 140 on the Rockwell M scale.

19. (new) A process as set forth in claim 2, wherein the solid lubricant coating formed has an adhesive strength of at least 500 N/m as determined by the SAICAS (Surface And Interfacial Cutting Analysis System) method.

20. (new) A process as set forth in claim 2, wherein the lubricating powder is a powder of one or more substances selected from molybdenum disulfide, tungsten disulfide, graphite, boron nitride, and polytetrafluoroethylene.

21. (new) A process as set forth in claim 2, wherein the contact surface to which the coating fluid is applied has a surface roughness of 5 – 40  $\mu\text{m}$  Rmax.

22. (new) A process as set forth in claim 2, wherein the contact surface to which the coating fluid is applied has a porous coating layer formed by pretreatment.